

GOOD NEIGHBOR NEWS



Fall - 2012

The Power of Prevention

We all possess the power of prevention and it is really quite simple.

Property crime is preventable and community members have the power of prevention. The key to prevention is getting rid of the opportunity. Working together, we have the power of prevention in the City of Carlsbad.

Thefts from vehicles and vehicle burglary are common crimes of opportunity. Leaving valuables like laptops, purses and cell phones unattended in a car creates the opportunity for crime. Leaving behind a garage door opener is a house key.

Residents call the police department to report thefts from vehicles and at times numerous reports come from one street. Residents report going to bed leaving cars unlocked and valuables inside. What a thief finds are unsuspecting residents that have left behind an opportunity for crime.

The best place for a car is in a secured garage. Even when parking in a garage, remove all personal property from the car, lock the car, and take the keys and property into the house. Secure your car and property and discover the power of prevention.

An open garage door is another common opportunity for crime. It is easy to walk into a garage and walk out with tools, bicycles or landscaping equipment.

Sometimes residents are at home and working around the house or yard, and leave the garage door open for convenience. Sometimes a resident goes to bed and forgets the door is open, or drives off to work forgetting to close the door.

An open garage door can be an invitation to a thief. Get in the habit of closing the garage door even when at home and checking the door before going to bed. If a neighbor's garage door is open, be a good neighbor. Call the neighbor to let them know the door is open or if the

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neighbor is not at home close the door. Share the power of prevention.

Even property around the house or yard can create an opportunity for crime. Bicycles and other sporting equipment, UPS packages on doorsteps or gardening tools are tempting for a thief.

Do you know your neighbors well enough to notice a stranger removing property from their yard? How about patio furniture from their porch?

Discover your power!

Lock-up tools and bicycles, have packages delivered to work or a neighbor's house and join Neighborhood Watch. Through Neighborhood Watch neighbors get to know each other, learn what is normal in a neighborhood and learn what to do if something is suspicious. Give the whole neighborhood the power of prevention.

Community members have the power of prevention. By removing the opportunity for crime in neighborhoods we remove the crime. Working together we can share the power of prevention and keep the City of Carlsbad safe.

Adjust Clocks and Timers

Daylight savings time ends and darkness falls.

As clocks are turned back for fall don't forget your timers. Return home from a long day to a house that is well lit and not standing dark. A dark house appears unoccupied and vulnerable.

Set outside lights to go on when it starts to get dark and go off when it starts to get light. Set inside timers to come on at dark and go off when you go to bed. Be creative and you can simulate movement with several timer settings in less used rooms. For more tips, watch this three part [home security video series](#).



Malware Targets Smartphones

Use safety measures to avoid compromise.

According to the FBI, crooks are using malware to attack Android operating systems for mobile devices.

Some of the latest known versions of this type of malware are Loozfon and FinFisher. Loozfon in particular steals information. Criminals use different variations to lure victims.

In one version a work-at-home opportunity promises a profitable payday just for sending out e-mail. A link in the advertisement leads to a website that “pushes” Loozfon onto the user’s smartphone. The malicious application steals contact information from the user’s address book and the device’s phone number.

FinFisher is a spyware capable of taking over a smartphone. When installed the mobile device can be remotely controlled and monitored no matter where it is located. FinFisher is transmitted to a smartphone when the user visits a specific web link or opens a text message veiled as a system update.

These are just two examples of malware used to lure users into compromising their smartphones. There are many more making it essential to protect your device. Protect your smartphone with the following tips:

Who’s using your smartphone?

- When purchasing a smartphone, know the features of the device, including the default settings. Turn off unused features to minimize vulnerability.
- Use the devices encryption capabilities when available.
- Look at the reviews of the developer/company who published an application before downloading the application.
- Review and understand the permissions you are giving when you download applications.
- Passcode protect your mobile device and enable the screen lock feature after a few minutes of inactivity.
- Get malware protection for your mobile device.
- Be aware of applications that enable geo-location.
- Be aware that anytime an application or service runs in “unrestricted” or “system” level within an operation system, it allows any compromise to take full control of the device.
 - Do not allow your device to connect to unknown wireless networks.
- If you decide to sell your device or trade it in, make sure you wipe the device (reset it to factory default).
- Smartphones require updates to run applications and firmware. If users neglect this, it increases the risk of having their device hacked or compromised.
- Avoid clicking on or otherwise downloading software or links from unknown sources.
- Use the same precautions on your mobile phone as you would on your computer when using the Internet.

For more information visit the [FBI’s website](#).

Holiday Shopping with your Family



Family safety tips.

To protect your family while out and about shopping, create a family plan that includes awareness and preparation. A family plan will allow you anticipate the potential risk and plan ahead for your shopping adventure.

Planning includes choosing a safe time to shop (daylight), a safe area to shop (places you are familiar) and arranging to shop with a buddy (friend or relative). Planning may also include having a place to meet if you get separated, knowing where security is located, paying attention to where you put your purse or wallet, and not getting overloaded with bags and packages.

Plan where to park (i.e. not next to a tall vehicle and as close as you can to your destination). Teach your family to scan the area for suspicious people before parking, leaving or entering your vehicle. Stay inside your car if someone is suspicious or go back inside the shopping area and notify security.

The key to holiday shopping safety with your family is awareness and a good plan. Follow this link for more [holiday shopping safety tips](#).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Police media contact - Jodee Sasway
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jodee.sasway@carlsbadca.gov

Police emergency - 911

Police non-emergency - 760-931-2197

www.carlsbadca.gov/crime-prevention